UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.96/846/Part I/3
8 August 1995

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

COLLECTION

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART I. AFRICA

Section 3 - Burundi

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02468

BURUNDI

RWANDA
ZAIRE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
BURUNDI
Kiyonza
Giteranyi
Renga
Ntega
Kirundo
Gihororo
Giheta
Mugano
Muyinga
Mparamunundi
Kibarore
Busiga
Cibitoke
Rubura
Ngozi
Ntamba
Bubanza
Karuzi
Muramvya
Cankuzo
BUJUMBURA
Ruvumu
Gitega
Ruyigi
Bururi
Rutana
Makamba
Lake Tanganyika
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
0
50
Km.
Capital
Town or village
R Refugee/returnee locations
UNHCR Office

I.3 BURUNDI

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, Burundi hosted a population of 278,100 Rwandan refugees, including some 250,000 Rwandan refugees from the "new" caseload who arrived during or after June 1994 and who were accommodated in seven camps in the north. An estimated 25,100 Rwandan refugees from the "old" caseload, who arrived in Burundi during the periods 1959 to 1973 and 1990 to 1993, resided predominantly in Bujumbura. Some 21,900 Zairian refugees as well as 363 refugees of other nationalities were also living in Burundi, mainly in Bujumbura.

2. UNHCR also assisted some of the Burundi returnees who fled in the aftermath of the October 1993 events and came back to Burundi following the events of April 1994 in Rwanda. In addition, UNHCR has provided assistance to some 100,000 internally displaced persons grouped in camps or living in sites close to the Rwandan refugee camps.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

(a) Refugees

3. Following the dramatic events which occurred during 1994 in Rwanda, UNHCR has been providing protection and assistance to varying refugee caseloads in Burundi. In the first half of 1994, UNHCR provided direct assistance to some 44,000 Rwandan refugees who crossed the border in April 1994 and who then returned spontaneously to Rwanda in July 1994. In addition, between June and December 1994, a total of 250,000 new Rwandan refugees crossed into Burundi. During the first months of 1995, the number of new arrivals increased, with the closure of internally displaced person camps in Gikongoro Prefecture in Rwanda. More than 20,000 new arrivals were reported during the first four months of 1995.

4. UNHCR transferred the refugees from the border area to seven different camps and established a care and maintenance programme to assist them. By the end of 1994, basic services were available in all refugee camps: access roads were opened, and sanitation, health and water facilities were established. Individual assistance in the form of plastic sheeting, blankets, jerrycans and cooking sets was provided to all the refugees upon their arrival at the camps.

5. Following a series of security incidents affecting refugees in Burundi, some 30,000 Rwandan refugees crossed into the United Republic of Tanzania during 1994 in search of better security conditions. During 1995, further groups totalling some 80,000 Rwandan refugees attempted to cross into the United Republic of Tanzania. However, on 31 March 1995 the Tanzanian authorities closed the border with Burundi to stop the entry of new asylum-seekers. This decision, first addressed to Rwandan refugees, de facto also affected Burundi asylum-seekers.

6. A Tripartite Agreement for the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees was signed between the Governments of Burundi and Rwanda, and UNHCR on 14 December 1994. The planning assumption for the 1995 UNHCR assistance programme was that, while the care and maintenance assistance needed to be continued for some, at least 110,000 Rwandan refugees accommodated in camps, as well as all "old" caseload refugees, would opt for voluntary repatriation in 1995.

7. A Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, organized jointly by the Organization of African Unity and UNHCR, took place in February 1995 in Bujumbura. The Conference adopted Plan of Action which focused on voluntary repatriation of Rwandan and Burundi refugees in the region. In practice, however, during the first six months of the year only 15,000 refugees from the camps and 20,000 from the "old" caseload in Bujumbura requested repatriation.

8. Over the remainder of the year, it is expected that refugee interest in repatriation from Burundi can be enhanced through confidence-building measures currently being implemented: dissemination of factual information on the situation in Rwanda; refugee visits to their areas of origin; and, whenever possible, visits of returnees already resettled in Rwanda to their former camps in Burundi.

9. With regard to Zairian and other refugees, it is expected that some 2,000 will elect to repatriate during 1995. As of June 1995, some 700 Zairian refugees were in the process of being repatriated voluntarily.

10. The 1995 requirements were revised during a programme review exercise carried out in May/June 1995, the results of which were reflected in the revised Appeal for the Rwanda/Burundi Special Operation.

(b) Returnees and internally displaced persons

11. During 1994 and thus far through 1995, assistance to returnees (up to 400,000 who returned from the United Republic of Tanzania in early 1994 and from Rwanda after the April 1994 events) has been disrupted by several factors: lack of security in areas of return; the geographical spread of areas of return; and the priority given to providing assistance to Rwandan refugees in Burundi. Some 50,000 Burundi returnees have directly benefited from UNHCR's assistance, principally through the distribution of seeds and tools.

12. A total of 400 Burundi returnees who have so far repatriated from Rwanda during 1995 are being assisted in one site by UNHCR, pending the allocation of land for their settlement by the Burundi authorities. It is expected that a further 2,500 Burundi refugees currently in Rwanda will repatriate during 1995. Reception facilities, as well as some reintegration activities -- principally the distribution of repatriation kits consisting of seeds and agricultural tools -- are being established. However, a significant number of these returnees may remain dependent upon international assistance, until the land scarcity issue is resolved.

13. Together with WFP and several non-governmental organizations, UNHCR provided assistance to internally displaced persons located in sites close to the refugee camps, in an effort to alleviate tension between refugees, the local population and internally displaced persons in northern Burundi. This assistance consisted mainly of food provided by WFP, as well as assistance with basic camp planning, water and sanitation infrastructure and basic health facilities provided by UNHCR through its implementing partners.

14. A joint WFP/European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO)/USAID mission recently evaluated internally displaced persons needs and proposed that assistance be directed towards encouraging internally displaced persons to return to their areas of origin.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

(i) Rwandan refugees

15. In 1996, UNHCR plans to continue to facilitate the spontaneous voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees. Furthermore, once political and security conditions permit, UNHCR will promote their organized voluntary repatriation. Initial planning figures established in early 1995 were for the repatriation of 110,000 refugees during 1995. For 1996 it is at present estimated that a further 100,000 will repatriate. This figure has since been revised in line with the actual level of registration for voluntary repatriation. The revised planning figure for the return in 1995 is 50,000 refugees in 1995. This figure includes an estimated 5,000 "old" caseload refugees in Bujumbura.

16. Pending their repatriation, Rwandan refugees will continue to receive basic assistance in the camps. This includes food distribution, health services, water and sanitation facilities, primary education, and social and community services, with an emphasis on the special needs of women and unaccompanied minors. In addition, measures to address the environmental impact due to the presence of relatively large numbers of refugees will be implemented during 1996.

17. Complementary to the efforts aimed at facilitating voluntary repatriation, UNHCR expects to consolidate the remaining refugee camps and transfer them to sites away from the border with Rwanda. In Bujumbura, a scholarship programme for refugee students at the primary and secondary levels initiated in preceding years will continue for a reduced number of refugees in need of such assistance.

(ii) Burundi returnees and internally displaced persons

18. UNHCR will continue to support the restoration of adequate security and socio-economic conditions which will allow the return of Burundi refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes. UNHCR will monitor the situation of returnees and provide assistance in order to facilitate their reintegration in Burundi.

19. Priority, however, will be given to the greater reintegration needs of "old" caseload returnees. Rural settlement activities targeted at 10,000 "old" caseload returnees are planned for 1996. The project will also finance income-generation projects to facilitate the integration of those returnees who the country in various waves since 1972.

20. During 1996 UNHCR will continue to transport returnees to their home communes and distribute domestic kits, hoes and seeds. The project will cover t maintenance of those transit camps established in 1995. Community-based quick impact projects (QIPs) will also be developed.

21. Contingent upon an improvement in the overall conditions in the country, UNHCR will facilitate the voluntary return of internally displaced persons to th home communes, and assist with the temporary settlement of those who are unable return to their homes for security reasons. UNHCR plans to assist some 25,000 internally displaced persons in 1996.

(iii) Zairians and refugees of other origin

22. The organized voluntary repatriation of Zairian refugees and those of ot origin has been planned. It is expected that some 5,000 from this caseload will choose to repatriate voluntarily during 1996. Resettlement will only be sought exceptional cases where third country protection is required, or on the grounds particular vulnerability.

23. During 1996 UNHCR will continue to assist urban refugees for whom a dura solution could not yet be found. Medical care and social assistance for particularly needy refugees will be assured, with special attention focused on unaccompanied children, women, single parent families, the elderly and disabled persons. Primary and secondary education assistance for refugee children will continue. Newly arrived needy refugees will also receive basic assistance pendi durable solution. Activities will aim particularly at identifying employment and income-generation opportunities for refugees pending a durable solution.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) Special Programmes

24. The 1996 requirements cover care and maintenance, repatriation and retur assistance for the various groups concerned. The initial budgets will be furthe reviewed during the last quarter of 1995, allowing for the latest developments (as population movements, security matters) in the area to be taken into consideration.

(c) Implementing partners

25. The assistance projects benefiting Rwandan refugees in camps are implemented by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societ CARE, Médecins sans Frontières-Belgium (MSF-B), CONCERN, Belgian Red Cross (CRB)

Action Internationale Contre la Faim (AICF), OXFAM-Quebec, INTERSOS, Jesuit Refugee Service, Fondation Education Rwanda (SRO2000), and Aide et Action. Most of these agencies are expected to continue as implementing partners through 1995 and into 1996, though some agencies specialized in emergencies or with specialized activities may not continue their activities in 1996.

26. The project for Burundi returnees and internally displaced persons is implemented by CARE, MSF-France, CARITAS and the CRB. The Government, through its Ministry of Reintegration of Returnees and internally displaced persons, will coordinate assistance activities in favour of returnees.

27. The programme for the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees is currently implemented by UNHCR, including the financing of personnel for registration and convoy escorts. If the number of voluntary repatriation candidates increases during the second half of 1995, implementing agencies will be sought to assume responsibility for organizing the logistics of the repatriation programme.

28. Projects benefiting urban refugees of Rwandan and other origin will continue being implemented by CARITAS, ADRA and directly by UNHCR.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

29. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

30. The 1994 expenditure was above the revised estimates made in the first half of 1994. As Rwandan refugees continued to seek asylum in Burundi throughout 1994, it became necessary to further increase UNHCR's presence for assistance and protection purposes. As of November 1994, 42 new posts were established, of which 9 were international staff posts. In addition, the expenditure for staff support increased proportionately. Expenditure related to the Burundi returnee programme was included within the Special Programme for the Rwanda/Burundi emergency operation. An important investment was made in the purchase of security and communications equipment for the staff and offices.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

31. The substantial increase in the revised requirements for 1995 is a reflection of the creation of new posts towards the end of 1994. In the latter part of 1994, the UNHCR office in Ngozi (Kayanza) became the central point for the operations in northern Burundi, with the offices in Kirundo and Muyinga reporting directly to the Sub-Office in Ngozi. Staff assigned to the UNHCR offices in Ruyigi and Makamba were moved to the north as the refugee assistance programme became more demanding.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

32. The 1996 estimated requirements show a decrease compared to the revised 1995 estimates. Though the initial budget is based on the same number of staff, t costs for equipment in particular are expected to be less. In view of the fluid situation in the Great Lakes area, there will be a further review towards the end 1995 concerning all the components of the assistance programme.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN BURUNDI

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
300.0	–	–	EMERGENCY FUND	–
390.0	673.4	–	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	–
6.5 a/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
77.0 b/	81.6	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
773.5	755.0		SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	
773.5	755.0		TOTAL (1)	
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
123.5	125.0	–	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	–
35,800.0	–	24,933.1	RWANDA/BURUNDI OPERATION	19,780.6
2,863.5	1,934.0	4,971.6	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	4,253.5
118.6	132.6	331.4	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	367.2
137.7	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
198.0	–	–	Extra-budgetary food	–
78.0	72.8	78.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	78.0
39,319.3	2,264.4	30,314.1	TOTAL (2)	24,479.3
40,092.8	3,019.4	30,314.1	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	24,479.3

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

b/ of which US$ 4,017 incurred against Other Programmes